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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
HA-05 OMB-01 (ISO) W
----------056371 191023Z /10
R 171630Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8423
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, MZ, LT
SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE FONMIN VISITS LESOTHO

1. MOZAMBIQUE FONMIN JOAQUIN CHISSANO AND A PARTY OF FOUR VISITED LESOTTO MARCH 13-15. HE MADE HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE AT THE MOSHOESHOE DAY CEREMONIES ALONG WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL (RESIDENT IN SWAZILAND) AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NIGERIA (RESIDENT IN BOTSWANA). CHISSANO WAS HONORED AT A RECEPTION THE FOLLOWING EVENING AT WHICH LESOTHO FOREIGN MINISTER C.D. MOLAPO SPOKE IN GLOWING TERMS OF FRELIMO'S EFFORTS IN LIBERATING PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE, INCLUDING A REFERENCE TO THE NECESSITY AT TIMES OF RESORTING TO ARMS IN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE.

2. CHISSANO SPOKE IN HALTING BUT CORRECT ENGLISH, ADDRESSING QTE EXCELLENCIES, FRIENDS, COMRADES..IF THERE ARE ANY HERE UNQTE
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WHICH PROVOKED BURST OF LAUGHTER. CHISSANO MADE PARTICULARLY WARM REFERENCE TO INCUMBENT AGRIC MIN. J. R. L. KOTSOKOANE'S VISIT TO FRELIMO WHEN KOTSOKOANE WAS LESOTHO FONMIN A FEW YEARS BACK. HE ASKNOWLEDGED WITH WARM WORDS RECEIPT OF GIFT FROM FONMIN MOLAPO BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO PRIOIN JONATHAN.

3. CHISSANO'S REMARKS WERE OCCASIONALLY GREETED BY CLENCHED FISTS

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AND FLAT HAND SALUTES OF LOCAL PAC AND ANC REFUGEES WHO STOOD IN FRONT ROW OF GUESTS DRINKING IN THE GUSTS OF REVOLUTIONARY AIR MOMENTARILY LET LOOSE IN MASERU. CHISSANO CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS WITH A VAGUE REFERENCE TO HIS GIFT TO MOLAPO WHICH HE SAID CONSISTED OF A PAINTING ENTITLED QTE MASSACRE UNQTE. HIS ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THE THEME OF THE PAINTING AND HIS REPETITION OF THE WORD MASSACRE CLOSED THE FORMALITIES WITH A CHILL.

4. ACCORDING TO REPORTS DROM VARIOUS SOURCES, CHISSANO MAY HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF MOZAMBIQUE REFINING OIL PRODUCTS FOR LESOTHO IN EVENT OF OIL EMBARGO. IT HARDLY SEEMS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS HYPOTHETICAL ECONOMIC MATTER COULD HAVE BEEN THE REAL REASON FOR CHISSANO'S SURPRISE VISIT. INTENDED OR NOT, THE VISIT CONSTITUTES AN UNMISTAKABLE MESSAGE THAT GOL IS PREPARED TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF MORE DIRECTLY WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION FORCES POSSIBLY TO ENGENDER GREATER SUPPORT FROM OAU RADICAL STATES FOR LESOTHO'S NEEDS OF THE HOUR.
STOKES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MASERU00683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-0992
Format: TEL
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780355/aaaabugc.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: de8f17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3292215
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBIQUE FONMIN VISITS LESOTHO
TAGS: PEPR, MZ, LT, (CHISSANO, JOAQUIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/de8f17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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